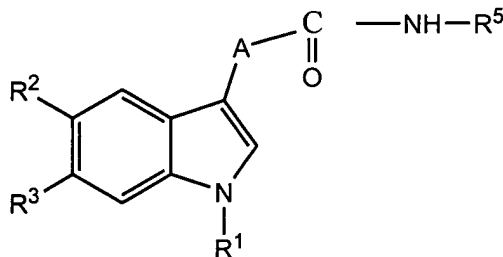


IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula ~~Formula~~ 1



or salts thereof, wherein

R¹ is a straight or branched C₁₋₁₂ alkyl optionally substituted with phenyl, or C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl radical wherein the phenyl radical is optionally substituted with a halo, nitro, hydroxy, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, or COOH;

R² and R³ are each independently of each other hydrogen or an OH radical where at least one of R² and R³ are -OH;

R⁵ is a phenyl or pyridyl radical substituted with at least one halogen radical and is optionally further substituted with -H, -OH, -SH, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₆ alkyl, -N(C₁₋₆ alkyl)₂, -NHC₆₋₁₄ aryl, -N(C₆₋₁₄ aryl)₂, -N(C₁₋₆ alkyl)(C₆₋₁₄ aryl), -NHCOR⁶, -NO₂, -CN, -COOH, -(CO)R⁶, -(CS)R⁶, -F, -Cl, -Br, -I, -O-C₁₋₆ alkyl, -O-C₆₋₁₄ aryl, -O(CO)R⁶, -S-C₁₋₆ alkyl, -S-C₆₋₁₄ aryl, -SOR⁶, or -SO₂R⁶; and

A is a bond, C=O, or a CHOH radical or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

which method comprises converting a compound of formula (I), wherein R^2 or R^3 or R^2 and R^3 are $O-R^7$, into the compound of formula (I) by removing of R^7 , wherein R^7 is a substituent that is a protecting group selected from the group consisting of heteroaryl, ~~heteraryl~~ alkyl, cycloalkyl, arylalkyl, aryl, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, N-substituted aminocarbonyl, silyl and a sulfonyl group; wherein acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, N-substituted aminocarbonyl, silyl or sulfonyl residues are removed by hydrolysis with a suitable base with a suitable reagent for hydrolysis, and wherein heteroaryl, alkyl, cycloalkyl and aryl groups are removed by an ether cleavage with a suitable reagent to cleave the ether, to yield the compound of formula (I).

22. (canceled)

23. (canceled)

24. (canceled)

25. (canceled)

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein R^5 is substituted with one or two halogens.

27. (canceled)

28 - 32 (canceled)

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein R^1 is an optionally substituted C_1 - C_2 alkyl.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein R^1 is an optionally substituted C_1 - C_2 alkyl.

35-36 (canceled)

37. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein R^7 is removed with a reagent for hydrolysis under conditions suitable to remove R^7 .

38. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein a reagent for hydrolysis is a base.

39. (new) The method of claim 35, where said base is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, sodium carbonate and potassium carbonate.

40. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein R^7 is removed by an ether cleavage.

41. (new) The method of claim 40, wherein the ether cleavage is accomplished in the presence of an acid selected hydrobromic acid, hydrochloric acid, hydriodic acid and from the group consisting of an activating Lewis acid.

42. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein said activating Lewis acid is selected from the group consisting of $AlCl_3$, BF_3 , BBr_3 and $LiCl$.

43. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein removal of R^7 is in the presence of an additional activator.

44. (new) the method of claim 43 wherein the additional activator is selected from the group consisting of ethane-1,2-dithiol and benzyl mercaptan.

45. (new) The method of claim 40, wherein the ether cleavage is accomplished with hydrogen.

46. (new) The method of claim 40, wherein the ether cleavage is at elevated or normal pressure.

47. (new) The method of claim 40, wherein the ether cleavage takes place in the presence of a suitable catalyst.

48. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the compound is N-(3,5-dichloropyridin-4-yl)-2-[1-(4-fluorobenzyl)-5-hydroxyindol-3-yl]-2-oxoacetamide.

49. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the compound is N-(3,5-dichloropyridin-4-yl)-2-[1-(4-fluorobenzyl)-5-hydroxyindol-3-yl]-2-oxoacetamide sodium salt.
50. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the compound is N-(3,5-dichloropyridin-4-yl)-2-[1-(4-fluorobenzyl)-5-hydroxyindol-3-yl]-2-hydroxyacetamide.
51. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the compound is N-(3,5-dichloropyridin-4-yl)-2-[1-(2,6-difluorobenzyl)-5-hydroxyindol-3-yl]-2-oxoacetamide.
52. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the compound is N-(3,5-dichloropyridin-4-yl)-2-[1-(3-nitrobenzyl)-5-hydroxyindol-3-yl]-2-oxoacetamide.
53. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the compound is N-(3,5-dichloropyridin-4-yl)-2-(1-propyl-5-hydroxyindol-3-yl)-2-oxoacetamide.
54. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the compound is N-(3,5-dichloropyridin-4-yl)-2-(1-isopropyl-5-hydroxyindol-3-yl)-2-oxoacetamide.
55. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the compound is N-(3,5-dichloropyridin-4-yl)-2-(1-cyclopentylmethyl-5-hydroxyindol-3-yl)-2-oxoacetamide.
56. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the compound is N-(3,5-dichloropyridin-4-yl)-2-[1-(4-fluorobenzyl)-6-hydroxyindol-3-yl]-2-oxoacetamide.
57. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the compound is N-(3,5-dichloropyridin-4-yl)-5-hydroxy-1-(4-methoxybenzyl)indole-3-carboxamide.
58. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the compound is N-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-2-[1-(4-fluorobenzyl)-5-hydroxyindol-3-yl]-2-oxoacetamide.
59. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the compound is N-(2,6-dichloro-4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-2-[1-(4-fluorobenzyl)-5-hydroxyindol-3-yl]-2-oxoacetamide.
60. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the compound is N-(2,6-dichloro-4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl)-2-[1-(4-fluorobenzyl)-5-hydroxyindol-3-yl]-2-oxoacetamide.

61. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein R⁵ is pyridyl disubstituted with a halogen radical

62. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein R⁵ is phenyl.

63. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein R⁵ is pyridyl.